

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03021 160136Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 SP-02 /027 W
-----108729 160334Z /73
R 160130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO USICA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7434

UNCLAS TAIPEI 03021

USICA

USICA FOR EA
SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION ICA TAICHUNG TAINAN CLOSURE

1. FOLLOWING FULL TEXT OF CHINA NEWS (ENGLISH-LANGUAGE;
20,000) MAY 13, 1978 NEWS STORY ON THE CLOSING OF ICA
TAINAN AND TAICHUNG:

2. AMERICAN LEGIONNAIRES PROTEST LIBRARY CLOSURES.
GEN. CLAIRE L. CHENNAULT POST 49 OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
HAS JOINED (SIC) THE PROTEST OVER THE SCHEDULED SHUTTING
DOWN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY'S LIBRARIES
AT TAINAN AND TAICHUNG.

- E. KIRK HENDERSON, THE POST COMMANDER, REGISTERED HIS
PROTEST IN A LETTER ADDRESSED TO ROBERT CHARLES SMITH,
THE LEGION'S NATIONWL COMMANDER.

- FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER READS:

- IT WAS ANNOUNCED RECENTLY THAT THE INTERNATIONAL
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COMMUNICATION AGENCY (FORMERLY USIS) WILL CLOSE THE
LIBRARIES AT TAINAN AND TAICHUNG, TAIWAN, ROC. THE
REASON GIVEN WAS BUDGETARY PROBLEMS.

- ACCORDING TO CURRENT NEWS STORIES AND EDITORIAL
COMMENT, THE CLOSING IS POLITICAL. IF THIS BE THE CASE
I TRUST THAT THE AMERICAN LEGION WILL "DARE TO CARE"

ENOUGH TO MAKE A STRONG PROTEST.

- IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS ALLOWED TO KEEP GRADUALLY REMOVING THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE UNITED STATES WE CITIZENS, WE WILL HAVE LOST OUR BATTLE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED TO US.

- SINCE THE AMERICAN LEGION IS ON RECORD IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, I FEEL I WOULD BE REMISS IF YOU WERE NOT MADE AWARE OF CURRENT ACTIONS WHICH COULD ALIENATE SOME OF OUR FRIENDS.

- I AM ENCLOSING COPIES OF RECENT NEWS STORIES FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

- SINCERELY, E. KIRK HENDERSON, POST COMMANDER. AYERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI03021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780205-1289
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780552/aaaabsfg.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5d383e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2673445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION ICA TAICHUNG TAINAN CLOSURE
TAGS: SOPN, ICA
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5d383e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014